

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008756
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY S:RWAHERNE:BH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL MESSAGE

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER
FROM THE SECRETARY:

2. (BEGIN TEXT) DEAR JIM: ONE OF OUR NEWSPAPERS
EDITORIALIZED THE OTHER DAY ON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
TRANSITIONS IN LONDON AND THOSE IN WASHINGTON, POINTING
OUT THAT UNDER YOUR SYSTEM THE MOVING-VAN ARRIVES ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE KNOWN. WE, ON
THE OTHER HAND, SUBMIT TO THE EXQUISITE AGONY OF TEN WEEKS
OR SO OF WATCHING AND WAITING -- NOT QUITE YET IMPOTENT,
BUT NOT THE SAME AS BEFORE, EITHER.

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PAGE 02 STATE 008756

BUT OUR APPROACH DOES HAVE THE MERIT OF ALLOWING THOSE
WHO ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE OFFICE TO REFLECT A BIT -- BETWEEN
FAREWELL CEREMONIES -- ON WHAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO DO, AND
ON THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE WORKED. THERE IS NO
SINGLE HIGHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF
STATE THAN THE NOURISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
WHICH THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE IMPOSES ON

OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AND NO SECRETARY OF STATE COULD HAVE
ASKED FOR A MORE DEDICATED PARTNER AT NUMBER TEN THAN YOU.

WHETHER ON ATLANTIC POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROBLEMS,
ECONOMIC ISSUES, RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND
CHINA, THE MIDDLE EAST, OR -- MOST IMPORTANT IN RECENT
MONTHS -- OUR EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, YOU HAVE BEEN
BY TURNS A CONCEPTUAL THINKER, AN INNOVATOR, A
NEGOTIATOR, A CRITIC WHEN NEED BE -- AND ALWAYS A LEADER
AND A FRIEND.

AND I HAVE PARTICULARLY ADMIRERD THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE
MAINTAINED AN ACTIVE AND FRUITFUL ROLE FOR BRITAIN IN
THE WORLD AT A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE HAD DIFFICULT PROBLEMS
TO DEAL WITH AT HOME. WITH THAT KIND OF VISION AND
WILL AT THE HELM, THE BRITISH PEOPLE NEED NOT FEAR FOR
THE FUTURE. BURKE WROTE THAT "A DISPOSITION TO PRESERVE,
AND AN ABILITY TO IMPROVE, TAKEN TOGETHER, WOULD BE MY
STANDARD OF A STATESMAN." BY THAT EXACTING MEASURE YOU
CAN I THINK, JIM, TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED,
AND LOOK AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE.

WE WILL OF COURSE SEE EACH OTHER IN THE FUTURE, AND NANCY
JOINS ME IN SENDING YOU OUR WARMEST WISHES. (END TEXT)

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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